

Museum Quarterly Report April-June 2002

OVERVIEW

The J. Curtis Earl exhibit opened its doors on Memorial Day and was dedicated on Flag Day. The Governor, Attorney General, members of the Earl family and President U.S. Grant attended to officially open the exhibit. It has seen a steady stream of visitors since and has been widely praised.

The Museum also hosted the annual Idaho Association of Museums annual conference on April 6. The topic for this year was on the successful operation of the museum store. Over 50 people attended. Guest speaker Andrew Andoniadis used the ISHM Museum Shop as a model for good business practice.

The Museum hosted a photographic exhibit on "Heart Mountain" the Japanese interment camp in Wyoming in May. The Anne Frank Center for Human Rights sponsored it.

In May, Ken Swanson was asked to be on the faculty of the Northwest Economic Development conference sponsored by the Department of commerce. He spoke on Cultural Tourism in local economics.

PERSONNAL

There were no changes at the Museum this quarter.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

We had 27 donations in the past quarter. One special item is a hand-made flag presented to the museum by the Survivors of Wake, Guam and Cavite. T. Bailey Lee and John E. Schultz made the flag from materials on hand after the liberation of the Japanese internment camp they were imprisoned in. Both men worked for MK and were captured on Wake Island during WWII.

EXHIBITS AND TRAVELING TRUNKS

The Lewis and Clark traveling trunks have been traveling quite regularly this past quarter. Their travels included Donnelly, McCall and numerous local schools.

The traveling exhibits have gone to McCall and Weiser this quarter. Raices Historica exhibit is resting before hitting the road again in August, where it will be going to the Museum of North Idaho in Couer d' Alene.

Capitol traveling trunks went to Sandpoint, Salmon, and Weiser. A few of the local schools also enjoyed the trunks.

TRAVEL

Ken Swanson 6/26 & 6/27 - Pocatello for the Idaho Cities Presentation

Gary Keith 5/18 & 5/19 - Rexburg

Milan Kovach 5/13 & 5/14 - Franklin and Pocatello

Audra Sims 4/22 - Salmon

Out-of-State

Kris Major 6/10 to 6/14 - College Park, MD for National History Day

PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

6/14 Grand opening of J. Curtis Earl Museum

6/24 NW Association of Schools

Upcoming Events

7/11 Experience Oregon with Arthur Hart

7/12 Folk Art Dance delegation (lunch)

7/25 & 26 Travel Industry Association (?)

8/1 Cooperate dinner (Porsche Co.) (?)

8/10-31 Watercolor Societies

8/19 Micron Sales meeting

8/20 Boise High School Reunion

EDUCATION PROGRAM PERSONNEL

The Education Specialist for the ISHS resigned her position and will no longer be in the office after July 19, 2002. Three college interns were placed in various research/interpretive positions within the agency through the education department.

BUDGET

There was no change to the budget this quarter.

PROGRAM UPDATES

- ❖ *History Day*- The state History Day contest took place at Boise State University on Friday, April 12. Trustee Gene Place played host to the 324 students who participated. Of those, over forty represented Idaho at the National History Day competition that took place in College Park, MD June 9-13. Two Idaho students, one from Idaho Falls and one from Boise, made it into the run-offs with their individual documentaries.
- ❖ *Museum visitation*- spring was a busy month for the museum with visiting school groups. Between the first of April and the end of June, we had over 7,200 students go through the museum or take advantage of the outreach programs through on-site visits. The annual volunteer recognition event took place the first Thursday in June at the Old Idaho Penitentiary. Over 100 volunteers attended and got a private showing of the J. Curtis Earl Museum as well as receiving recognition for their hours of service to the Society.
- ❖ *Outreach* – Larry Jones was the presenter for the second distance learning broadcast. Larry's presentation on the Oregon Trail in Idaho was "beamed" to Pocatello, Arco, and Rigby and had a live audience in Boise of over 20 teachers. The ISHS put up a display table and participated in the Idaho Environmental Education Summit that was held in Boise in April. Over 200 teachers and representatives from other state and federal agencies attended. Kris Major presented a session on the environmental history of Idaho to fourth grade teachers participating in a workshop sponsored by the Idaho Resource Rangeland Commission. Kris Major also participated as a member of a curriculum writing team for the State Department of Education. The team, made up of fourth grade social studies and music teachers, worked to align the course of Idaho history to the new state achievement standards. A draft will be ready for teachers in September. Education resources from the ISHS will be included in the draft.
- ❖ *Summer Teacher's Institute*- The institute took place in Pocatello the second week of July with 20 teachers attending from all over Idaho. The SHPO office worked hard to make the institute a success and special thanks go to Don Watts and Mary Anne Davis for presenting sessions during the workshop.
- ❖ *Miscellaneous*- A mailing went out this spring to all state public and private schools and to all teachers who have brought groups through the museum in the past to announce the new admission fee of \$.50 per student which will be charged beginning August 1, 2002. Kris Major sat in on interviews to hire a new weekend interpreter at the Old Pen historic site. The Education series is being re-edited and formatted so that it can be accessed from the ISHS web site. Hard copies will also be available by request. These valuable Idaho history resources, written at a fourth grade level, have not been available to the public for over ten years.

HISTORIC SITES

The horse barn re-roofing has been completed. The new slate roof should be good for 90-100 years.

Water Resources have not yet responded regarding water usage for the Old Pen site. Department of Lands will propose a water usage plan to Water Resources for their approval.

The plans for the Franklin visitor center have been approved and are proceeding with TEA/21 project. The installation of new roofs on the ZCMI and Relic hall in Franklin is completed.

The Board of Trustees has accepted the donation of the Doney house at Franklin. We will move the Doney house to our historical site along side the Bishop Hatch house located at Franklin. This project was initially a TEA/21 project, but the city chose not to complete the project. Rather than let this historical house be torn down, the society chose to accept this TEA/21 project.

The Department of Transportation board has given their initial approval of TEA/21 project for an interpretative center at Rock Creek Station. Depending on federal funding and final board approval, the project is scheduled for FY2005.

With abnormally low water this year at Rock Creek Station, there may not be sufficient water to irrigate later this summer.

Old Idaho Penitentiary State Historic Site

Visitation

This quarter the Old Idaho Penitentiary had 10,672 visitors. This is a 3.98% increase from the same quarter last year.

With the J. Curtis Earl Museum opening, the Old Pen had its largest admission revenue day ever.

Media

In May, many local news stations came out to cover the opening of the J. Curtis Earl Museum including local CBS, NBC, and FOX affiliates. In June 2002, Jon Miller from KTVB-Channel 7 interviewed Ken Swanson about the new museum. The story aired on channel 7 and was to air regionally on Northwest cable news. John Hanian, with Channel 2, did a two-day series on the Earl exhibit.

Education

Eighty educational groups with a total of 4395 students and chaperones visited the Old Idaho Penitentiary this quarter.

Interpretation

The Old Penitentiary returned to its summer schedule on Memorial Day. Guided walks for Old penitentiary visitors continue to be offered on weekends. There are also guided walks for visitors on weekdays until Labor Day.

Personnel

In April, the Old Idaho Penitentiary lost two of its weekend staff people. Terese Meyer resigned her position as a weekend receptionist. Jan Carr, who worked at the Old Idaho Penitentiary last fall, returned to replace her. Tammy Ferrel also resigned her position as the weekend interpreter. Doreen Martinek was hired to replace her. Joe Lindsey resigned his position as a weekend receptionist in May. Joanne Moss, who previously worked at the Old Idaho penitentiary, has returned and taken his place.

Volunteers

This quarter nineteen volunteers donated 644 hours of their time to the Old Idaho Penitentiary.

State Capitol

Personnel

New volunteer: Arielle Gorin (homeschooler) began in May.

Volunteers

The Capitol has nine active volunteers doing tours, research and program work. This quarter we had 140.25 volunteer hours.

Media

The Idaho Statesman ran an article on May 22, 2002, "Tour at the Capitol". In addition, on June 29, 2002, an article regarding the "Where Freedom Speaks: 200 years of the United States Capitol".

Special Events

Audra Sims assisted with History Day on April 12, 2002 at BSU, tours at the Old Idaho Penitentiary and the opening of the J. Curtis Earl museum.

Community Support

Audra gave two presentations to the East End Neighborhood Association on 4/16 and 5/14, to help boost Old Idaho Penitentiary awareness and volunteerism.

Tour Numbers

April	1,964
May	2,844
<u>June</u>	<u>690</u>
Total	5,498

Misc.

The public gave donations to Capitol Education Center in the amount of \$136.25 in January, \$22.65 in April and \$23.28 in June.

Respectfully submitted by

Kenneth J. Swanson
Administrator
Idaho State Historical Museum
And sites